

COMPACT ROTATING STAGE

Blaine R. Spady

Dan M. Colban

5 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A compact stage includes a rotary driver and a vertical linear driver that are in the same horizontal plane, which advantageously reduces the height of the device. The stage may include a rotating shaft to which a chuck is mounted. A rotary drive, which may be an annular rotary drive, is coupled to and rotates the rotating shaft. A linear drive is also coupled to the
10 rotating shaft and in one embodiment extends through the center of the annular rotary drive. The linear drive moves the rotating shaft along a vertical axis. The linear drive may be, e.g., a voice coil motor that uses a spring to bias the rotating shaft along the vertical axis.